

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In one aspect, the present invention provides methods for amplifying a microRNA molecule to produce DNA molecules. The methods each include the steps of: (a) using primer extension to make a DNA molecule that is complementary to a target microRNA molecule; and (b) using a universal forward primer and a reverse primer to amplify the DNA molecule to produce amplified DNA molecules. In some embodiments of the method, at least one of the forward primer and the reverse primer comprise at least one locked nucleic acid molecule.